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# Numerical investigation of improved metal foam heat sink with $Fe_3O_4$ -H<sub>2</sub>O nanofluid

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#### ABSTRACT

The reliability and efficiency of electronic systems can be improved by removing their high thermal flux. Integrating porous media and nanofluids as working fluid within a heat sink (HS) is an effective strategy to dissipate the heat of electronic devices. To cool a CPU, a three-dimensional numerical simulation is carried out to investigate the characteristics of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O nanofluid flow, heat transfer, and entropy production in the proposed heat sink equipped with enhanced metal foam. The two-phase Eulerian model is implemented in Ansys Fluent software to predict the behavior of the turbulence flow of nanofluid. The simulation results are validated with experimental and numerical existing data, good agreement is achieved. The impact of pore permeability ( $10^{-4} \le Da \le 10^{-1}$ ), nanoparticle diameter ( $10nm \le dn \le 50nm$ ), nanoparticle concentration ( $0.1\% \le \phi \le 0.5\%$ ), and flow velocity ( $2600 \le Re \le 3800$ ) on heat exchange and entropy generation/production are carried out. The results showed that the application of reinforced foam enhances the average Nusselt number by 5.79% compared to aluminum foam and reduces thermal entropy generation/production by 47.58% at Re = 2600. Moreover, the performance evaluation criteria (PEC) increase by 56% when the pore permeability and flow velocity are raised.

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# INTRODUCTION

Microelectronic components have become indispensable in most fields, particularly media, communications, and security. As the demand for information technology grows, saving time and effort has become crucial. However, heat generation from electronic devices is a major issue that researchers and scientists are trying to minimize, as it is the main cause of their short lifespan and damage. Nanofluids have attracted researchers' attention as one of the solutions, as they are considered the best alternative to air in terms of heat exchange and cooling efficiency [1, 2], as confirmed by several experimental studies [3]. Porous media and heat sinks are also technologies that improve heat transfer and have attracted prominent researchers [4, 5]. Dong et al. [6] studied a radial HS with triangular fins installed on a concentric cylinder and found that it reduces thermal resistance and mass compared to a reference heat

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sink. They proved that the mass and resistance of HS decreased by 10-13% compared with reference radial HS.

Wu et al. [7] performed a numerical study on the impact of various flow and permeability characteristics on HS efficiency filled with metal foams at different arrangements to evaluate heat sink performance. E. Moghadam and J. Moghadam [8] simulated the turbulent flow of Alumina-nf in corrugated heat exchangers and found that adding 4%  $Al_2O_3$  causes an irreversibility increase of at most 5%. To the same aim, He et al. [9] conducted a numerical study of the geometrical parameters of ribbed pin micro-dissipators. They found that the average Nusselt number reached 44.3 at Re=1342.

Ming Jeng et al. [10] experimentally conducted squarefinned HS cooling using a passage divider by forced water convection. Their results showed that Nu's global improvement is 65% compared to HS without a passage divider and packed brass beads. Khan et al. [11] studied a hybrid nanofluid's mixed axial heat flow problem through a vertical cylinder filled with irradiated porous foam and a non-uniform heat source/dissipator. Ahmadian-Elmi et al. [12] conducted the effect of a pulsed heat pipe on the geometrical parameters of a micro-channel heat sink (MCHS) to reduce the temperature of electronic components. Yao et al. [13] examined heat exchanger and irreversibility of a non-Newtonian nf in a silicon MCHS. They found that adding nanoparticle concentration with increased sliding length reduced the total entropy generation by 2.55%. Kavitha et al. [14] performed a computational analysis of five-channel HS using Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O nf and distilled water as cooling fluids. The heat transfer coefficient increased by 51% when using nf compared to distilled water.

The impact of a jet with a magnetic field can also yield good results in heat exchanger and entropy production. Tilehnoee and Barrio [15] analyzed heat exchanger and entropy generation on a surface heated by a slit jet subjected to a uniform magnetic field and cooled by different nanofluids. They demonstrated that magnetic field applications could effectively reduce entropy generation. Wang et al. [16] evaluated an Oldroyd-B fluid's heat and mass transfer on a surface exposed to thermal radiation and a magnetic field. Furthermore, Tilehnoee et al. [17] considered a heated square container with 16 and 64 cylindrical solid blocks under a magnetic field to evaluate heat transfer and entropy generation. Their results showed that Rayleigh and Hartmann's numbers raised average Nusselt number and entropy production.

Entropy generation effects on the flow of three different hybrids in the Carreau-ternary with a magnetic field applied to a 2D stretching area were studied by Ramzan et al. [18]. Magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) improved convection in a metal HS filled with aluminum foam, and nf was studied by Izadi et al. [19]. Using a high magnetic field with porous foam improved impingement cooling heat transfer. Mass and heat transfer effects on the bio-convective magnetohydrodynamic peristaltic transport of Powell-Eyring nf through a curved channel with a magnetic field were studied by Iqbal et al. [20]. Flow and heat exchanger characteristics of nf jet impaction on an MCHS with corrugated bottom were proposed and numerically studied by Cheng et al. [21]. Based on their findings, when the resistance of MCHS is optimized, the pumping power is decreased.

Kushawaha et al. [22] examined a numerical study of 2D natural convection of  $Fe_3O_4$ - $H_2O$  nf and Cu- $H_2O$ non-magnetic nf inside a concentrated and exo-concentrated heated enclosure. They concluded that, at a higher value of nanoparticle concentration ( $\varphi$  %), the heat transfer reduced by 10% for  $Fe_3O_4$ - $H_2O$  and 12% for Cu- $H_2O$  nf. Reddy et al. [23] studied porosity effects in the presence of radiation and viscous dissipation on heat and mass transfer by 2D unsteady MHD mixed convection.

A two-phase mixing model was employed by Baghraz et al. [24] to study the role of np sedimentation on the parameters of natural convection heat exchanger within a porous channel filled with  $Al_2O_3$ - $H_2O$  nf through time. Their results showed that the formation of np deposition layers reduced Nu number. Five rib configurations in the interrupted microchambers of MCHSs were analyzed by Chai and Wang[25] to identify their thermal-hydraulic performances. Several studies have been investigated to achieve the same goal [26-38].

Farrukh et al. [39] studied the influence of viscous dissipation on plate channel temperature used for electronic cooling. The floating convection and heat dissipation of a saturated hybrid nf in inclined porous pipe were studied by Reddy et al. [40] using the Darcy-Brinkman-Forchheimer model. They were raising Darcy's number and improved heat dissipation. Zhang et al. [41] applied the topological optimization method to study the geometrical design of 2D MCHS that cools by Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O nf. Yang and Cao [42] proposed a multi-objective optimization of hybrid MCHS that combines the manifold concept with secondary oblique channels.

One solution proposed to enhance heat dissipation in electronic components is using phase change materials. Krishnan et al. [43] experimentally and numerically assessed the influence of Neopentyl glycol (NPG) on phase change material (PCM) HS operation with heat pipe-assisted solid-solid phase transition. They found that integrating heat pipes with a PCM-assisted HS significantly improved efficiency. Mirshekar et al. [44] performed experimental research on the impact of application PCMs embedded in an open-cell Cu-foam in an HS during the heating and cooling process on different samples. Rahman et al. [45] proposed an experimental study on a nickel foam HS embedded with PCM. They noted that the base temperature of HS decreased by 23% when using nickel foam and PCM.

The literature mentioned above has highlighted various methods that are currently used to dissipate heat from microelectronic devices to preserve their efficiency and age for much longer. The study's main objective is to cool

| Properties  | Al-foam [46] | Cu-foam | Al-Cu1 foam | Al-Cu2 foam | Al-Cu3 foam |
|-------------|--------------|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| k (W/m.K)   | 218          | 401     | 254.6       | 272.9       | 291.2       |
| ρ (kg/m³)   | 2719         | 8960    | 3967.2      | 4591.3      | 5215.4      |
| Cp (J/kg.K) | 871          | 390     | 774.8       | 726.7       | 678.6       |

Table 1. Physical properties of base metal foam studied

a CPU using a proposed HS with a metal foam and nanofluid. The key points raised in this study are set out below:

- The heat sink was created with dimensions adapted to Core i9 processor sizes, which have not yet been considered.
- The idea proposed is an improved foam made with a combination of variable ratios of aluminum and copper in place of currently used metallic foams aluminum or copper to study their effectiveness in heat transfer and entropy generation.
- Improved porous foam is placed within the heat sink in opposite directions, with the two porous fins facing each other.
- Turbulence flow of nanofluid is used instead of water to enhance heat transfer.

Various parameters that affect heat transfer and entropy generation, such as pore permeability  $(10^{-4} \le Da \le 10^{-1})$ , nanoparticle diameter (10nm  $\le$  dn  $\le$  50nm), nanoparticle concentration (0.1%  $\le \phi \le 0.5\%$ ), and flow velocity (2600  $\le Re \le 3800$ ) are taken into account. Using a two-phase Eulerian model to predict the behavior of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O nf is a suitable approach, giving insight into the complex interactions between nf and porous foam. The optimal ratio of the aluminum-copper mixture in the porous foam is determined, which can potentially improve the performance of HS used in microelectronic devices. Overall, the study may contribute to developing more efficient cooling systems for microelectronic components.

# PROBLEM DESCRIPTION AND GOVERNING EQUATIONS

This study aims to simulate the proposed design of a heat sink to cool the i9 CPU with metal foam containing aluminum and copper in different proportions to achieve the most efficient foam. The properties of the base metal foam used are shown in Table 1, with a constant metal foam porosity  $\epsilon = 0.8$ . The physical depiction of the studied area is illustrated in Figure 1. Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O nf is used as a coolant, the effect of nanoparticles diameter (10nm  $\leq$  dn  $\leq$  50nm) and their concentrations (0.1%  $\leq \phi \leq 0.5\%$ ) on heat transfer and entropy generation are studied. Nanofluid characteristics are presented in Tab.2. A turbulent nf flow (2600  $\leq$  Re  $\leq$  3800) is applied to the porous medium, entered at T= 293.16 K to evacuate the heat flux distributed on the bottom surface of HS (220 kW/m<sup>2</sup>).

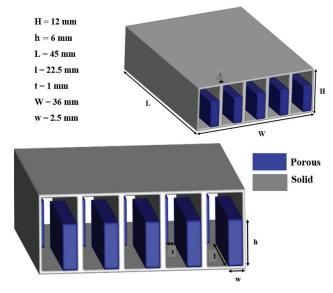


Figure 1. Schematic of the heat sink, including porous fins of Al-Cu3 foam.

Nanofluid flow is assumed to be steady-state, incompressible, 3D, with constant thermophysical properties and two-phase (mixing and Eulerian) conditions throughout the studied field to model the computational domain and simulation. The radiative mode of heat transfer between the two phases is negligible.  $Fe_3O_4$  nanoparticles and  $H_2O$ constitute two interpenetrating liquid phases. Moreover, porous foam is homogeneous, isotropic, and in thermal equilibrium with nf, with a constant porosity.

#### **Eulerian Multiphase Method**

According to the Eulerian model, the governing equations based on the above hypotheses are:

The continuity equations of the second phase are defined as follows [47]:

$$\nabla .(\phi_p \ \rho_p \ V_p) = 0 \tag{1}$$

$$\nabla .(\phi_l \,\rho_l \,V_l) = 0 \tag{2}$$

The momentum equations for the two phases are as follows [47] :

$$\nabla \cdot (\varphi_{\rm p} \rho_{\rm p} V_{\rm p} V_{\rm p}) = -\varphi_{\rm p} \nabla P + \nabla \cdot \overline{T_p} + F_{\rm pl}$$
(3)

$$\nabla . (\varphi_{l} \rho_{l} V_{l} V_{l}) = -\varphi_{l} \nabla P + \nabla . \overline{T}_{l} + F_{lp}$$
<sup>(4)</sup>

The  $F_{pl}$  and  $F_{lp}$  identify the forces interacting between the two phases,  $V_p$  and  $V_l$  represent the velocity of solid and liquid phases, respectively.

The energy equation of the Eulerian phases is more approximate by [47]:

$$\nabla \cdot (\varphi_p \rho_p h_p V_p) = \overline{T_p} : \nabla V_p - \nabla \cdot k_p \ \nabla T + q_{pl}$$
(5)

$$\nabla . (\phi_l \rho_l h_l V_l) = \overline{T_l} : \nabla V_l - \nabla . k_l \nabla T + q_{lp}$$
(6)

Where  $h_p$  and  $h_l$  are specific enthalpies of solid and liquid phases, respectively. The  $q_{pl}$  and  $q_{lp}$  identify the rate of heat exchanger between solid and liquid phases.  $\overline{T_p}$  and  $\overline{T_l}$ identify the stress-strain tonsor of solid and liquid phases.

#### k-ε Turbulence Model

The k- $\varepsilon$  standard model is a one-based on transport equations for kinetic energy of turbulence (k) and its rate of dissipation ( $\varepsilon$ ) [51], which are found in the equations below:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho k) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{i}}(\rho k u_{i}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{j}} \left[ \left( \mu + \frac{\mu_{t}}{\sigma_{k}} \right) \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_{j}} \right] + G_{k} + G_{b} - \rho \varepsilon - Y_{m} + S_{k}$$
(7)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho\varepsilon) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{i}}(\rho\varepsilon u_{i}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{j}} \left[ \left( \mu + \frac{\mu_{t}}{\sigma_{\varepsilon}} \right) \frac{\partial\varepsilon}{\partial x_{j}} \right] + C_{1\varepsilon} \frac{\varepsilon}{k} (G_{k} + C_{3\varepsilon}G_{b}) - C_{2\varepsilon}\rho \frac{\varepsilon^{2}}{k} + S_{\varepsilon}$$
(8)

 $G_k$  and  $G_b$  represent the kinetic energy production of turbulence due to velocity gradients and buoyancy, respectively.  $Y_m$  is the fluctuating dilatation contribution in compressible turbulence to the global dissipation rate.  $C_{1\varepsilon}$ ,  $C_{2\varepsilon}$ , and  $C_{3\varepsilon}$  are constants which  $C_{1\varepsilon}$ = 1.44,  $C_{2\varepsilon}$ = 1.92,  $C_{3\varepsilon}$ = 1.63 [51].

 $\sigma_k$  and  $\sigma_{\varepsilon}$  are the turbulence Prandlt numbers for k and  $\varepsilon$  ( $\sigma_k$ =1,  $\sigma_{\varepsilon}$ =1.3) [51],  $S_k$  and  $S_{\varepsilon}$  are source terms.

Turbulence viscosity  $\mu_t$  is determined by combining k and  $\varepsilon$  in the following way [51]:

$$\mu_t = \rho \ C_\mu \frac{k^2}{\varepsilon} \tag{9}$$

 $C_{\mu}$  is a constant equal to 0.09.

#### Thermophysical Properties of Nanofluid

The physical characteristics of  $Fe_3O_4$ - $H_2O$  nf are presented in Table 2. The density ( $\rho_{nf}$ ), dynamic viscosity ( $\mu_{nf}$ ), and specific heat ( $Cp_{nf}$ ) of nf are calculated by the following equations [48]:

$$\rho_{\rm nf} = (1 - \varphi) \,\rho_{\rm l} + \varphi \rho_{\rm p} \tag{10}$$

$$\mu_{\rm nf} = \frac{\mu_{\rm l}}{(1-\phi)^{2.5}} \tag{11}$$

$$Cp_{nf} = (1 - \varphi) Cp_l + \varphi Cp_p$$
(12)

The nanofluid thermal conductivity  $(k_{nf})$  is calculated by [49]:

$$k_{nf} = k_{l} \left[ \frac{k_{l} + 2k_{l} + 2\varphi(k_{p} - k_{l})}{k_{p} + 2k_{l} - \varphi(k_{p} - k_{l})} \right]$$
(13)

#### Data Reduction

The average Nusselt number (Nu<sub>avg</sub>) is calculated by [9]:

$$Nu = \frac{k_{nf}}{k_l} \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \times \frac{D_h}{T_{in}} \right)$$
(14)

$$Nu_{avg} = \frac{1}{A} \int Nu \, dA \tag{15}$$

The Reynolds number [3]

$$\operatorname{Re} = \frac{\rho_{l} \operatorname{VD}_{h}}{\mu_{l}} \tag{16}$$

Hydraulic diameter is defined as follows [3]:

$$D_{h} = \frac{4A_{f}}{P} = 2 \frac{ab}{a+b}$$
(17)

The permeability of nf through porous media can be indicated by Darcy's number. Defined by [3]:

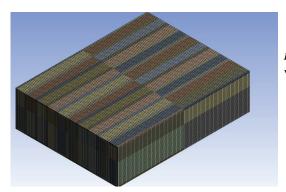
$$Da = \frac{K}{D_{h^2}}$$
(18)

The equation below was employed to compute pressure drop in the working domain [9]:

$$\Delta P = P_{\rm in} - P_{\rm out} \tag{19}$$

Table 2. Physical properties of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O nanofluid [48]

| Physical properties                         | ρ (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Cp (J/kg.K) | k (W/m.K) | μ (Pa.s)  |
|---|------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Water H <sub>2</sub> O                      | 998.1                  | 4179        | 0.613     | 0.0013004 |
| Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> nanoparticle | 5180                   | 670         | 80        | /         |



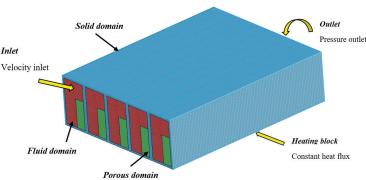


Figure 2. Mech topology and boundary conditions.

Eqs estimate Performance Evaluation Criterion (PEC) and friction factor (f) are [47]:

$$PEC = \frac{\frac{Nu_{nf}}{Nu_{l}}}{\frac{\Delta P_{nf}}{\Delta P_{l}}}$$
(20)

$$f = \frac{\Delta P.D_h}{2 \times (L \times \rho_{nf} \times V^2)}$$
(21)

#### **Entropy Production**

9

The total entropy generation  $(S_g)$  of the system constitutes thermal  $(S_h)$ , viscous  $(S_f)$ , and porous  $(S_p)$  entropy components [47]

$$S_{h}^{\tilde{m}} = \frac{k_{nf}}{T^{2}} \left[ \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right)^{2} + \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right)^{2} + \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right)^{2} \right]$$
(22)

$$S_{f}^{"} = \frac{\mu_{nf}}{T} \left\{ 2 \left[ \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)^{2} + \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)^{2} + \left( \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \right)^{2} \right] + \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)^{2} + \left( \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \right)^{2} + \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right)^{2} \right\}$$
(23)

$$S_{p}^{'''} = \frac{\mu_{nf}}{T.K} \left( u^{2} + v^{2} + w^{2} \right)$$
(24)

K perpesent the permeability of metal foam.

$$S_g = S_h + S_f + S_p \tag{25}$$

The system's global entropy is the integral of total entropy over the computation domain [47]

$$S_{g} = \int S_{h}^{m} dv + \int S_{f}^{m} dv + \int S_{p}^{m} dv \qquad (26)$$

#### **Boundary Conditions**

Flow problems can be numerically solved by setting the correct boundary conditions (Fig. 2), as follows:

- Inlet boundary: u = 0, v = 0,  $w = w_{in}$  (uniform velocity), and  $T = T_{in} = 293.15$ K.
- Outlet boundary:  $P = P_{out}$  (Atmospheric).
- Walls boundary: At no-slip condition u = v = w = 0.
- Heat source:  $q'' = 220 \text{ kW/m}^2$ .

# Numerical Approach, Grid Independence, and Validation

The ANSYS-Fluent software is used in the numerical study [51]. A simple algorithm based on the finite volume method (FVM) is utilized to discretize and solve the partial differential equations (1-8). The second-order upwind schema is adopted to realize the coupling of velocity and pressure terms in momentums and energy equations. Flow and temperature fields are not affected by thermal radiation. k- $\epsilon$  standard model is selected to investigate the turbulence effect of nf flow in HS. To maintain good accuracy of results, the residual's convergence error is between 10<sup>-6</sup> and 10<sup>-7</sup>. Constant velocity inlet, atmospheric pressure outlet, and constant heat flux q" boundary conditions (Fig. 2), no-slip boundary conditions for solid-fluid, solid-porous, and fluid-porous interfaces are applied to the computational domain.

A structured mech of hexagonal elements was established for this study. Figure 3 shows the central processing unit's (CPU's) contact surface temperature variations on five meshes (288000–480000 components) to demonstrate the grid's independence. It can be seen that grid 4 (432000 elements) is well with grid 3 (388800 elements). The acquired error between them is below 0.007% in temperature surface. This indicates that the quality of grid 4 gives accurate results, so it is adopted in the simulation of this study, shown in Figure 2.

This study compares the results of the new computational model to Alhajaj et al. [50] and Ambreen et al. [47]. For validation, a five-channel HS with a length of 45 mm, width of 6 mm, and height of 12 mm was tested. The HS bottom is filled with the opposite porous foam (properties are illustrated in Table 1) with dimensions  $l \times w \times h$  (Fig. 1). A mono-phase model and laminar forced convection of water are applied to metal foam ( $\varepsilon = 0.9$ ).

Figure 4 shows Nusselt's average number (Nu<sub>avg</sub>) on the different flow rates (0.1, 0.15, 0.18, and 0.23), the present Nu<sub>avg</sub> confirmed a satisfactory agreement with the experimental Nu<sub>avg</sub> of Alhajaj et al [50]. At 0.18 (m<sup>3</sup>/s) flow rate, Nu<sub>avg</sub> represents a maximum deviation of 1.25%. The second validation appears in Figure 5, which illustrates thermal entropy generation/production (*Sh*) of HS with  $\varepsilon$  =

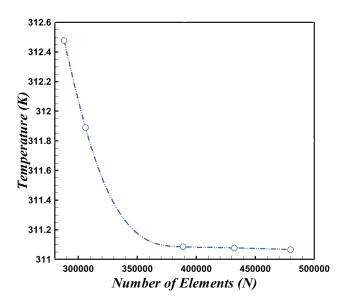
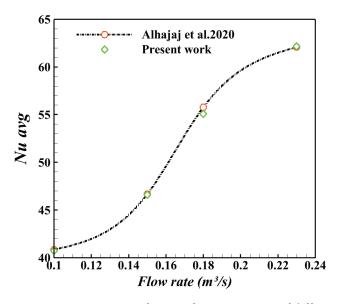


Figure 3. Grid independence test.



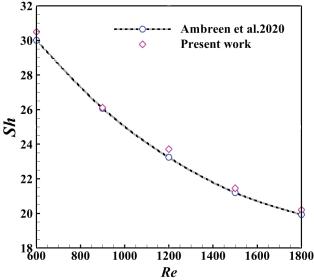
**Figure 4.** Comparison of  $Nu_{avg}$  of water in terms of different flow rates with the experimental results of Alhajaj et al. [50].

0.8 foam porosity at different Re. There is a good consistency between the outcome of the current study and what Ambreen et al. [47] found. The maximum error value observed at Re = 600 is 1.6%, which is acceptable for this study.

# **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### Study and Selecting the Most Suitable Foam

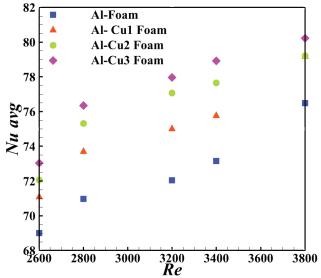
The paper examines the effect of different mixing ratios of aluminum and copper in metallic foam on heat transfer



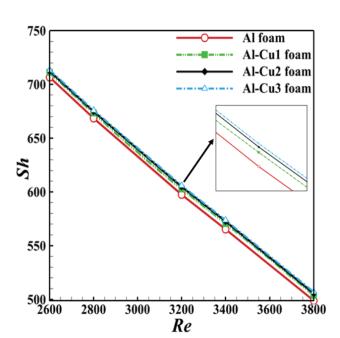
**Figure 5.** Validation of thermal entropy generation by the Eulerian model coupled with the Darcy-Brinkman-Forchheimer model of Ambreen et al. [47].

and entropy generation. Three other foams are studied, namely Al-Cu1 (80% Al and 20% Cu), Al-Cu2 (70% Al and 30% Cu), and Al-Cu3 (60% Al and 40% Cu). The goal is to find the optimal ratio that offers the best performance in CPU cooling while reducing entropy generation.

The variation of Nu<sub>avg</sub> as a function of Re ( $2600 \le \text{Re} \le 3800$ ) for different metal foams is shown in Figure 6 at  $\varphi = 0.1\%$ . In agreement with the majority of previous studies [43, 48], Nu<sub>avg</sub> increases as the flow acceleration. It is clear that Nu average of Al-Cu3 foam is always the highest, followed by Al-Cu2, then Al-Cu1, the aluminum foam gave



**Figure 6.** Average Nusselt number changes for various porous foams studied and Re number for  $\varphi$ =0.1%.



**Figure 7.** Thermal entropy generation as different Re number and metal foams for  $\varphi$ =0.1%.

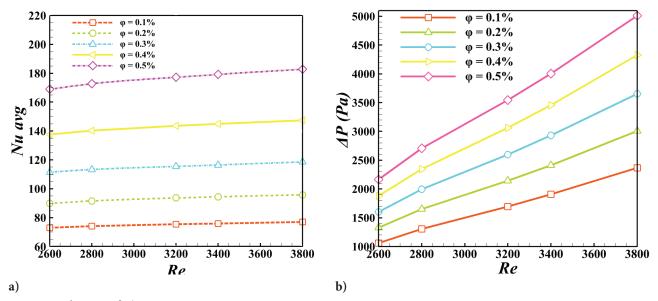
the lowest values, with an estimated deviation of 5.79% compared to Nu<sub>avg</sub> of Al-Cu3 foam. This is the main reason for adding the percentages of copper in thoughtful foam, where copper has high thermal conductivity. Improved Nu<sub>avg</sub> is more clear in Al-Cu3 foam containing 40% copper. This amount increased the thermal conductivity of the foam used in CPU cooling, as the heat exchange coefficient rises due to the forced convection of nf inside the foam, resulting in a lower convection/conduction ratio, increasing the Nusselt number. In Re = 3800, Nu<sub>avg</sub> enhancement

is 4.84%. As the Cu ratio increases,  $Nu_{avg}$  improves. When Re rises from 2600 to 3800,  $Nu_{avg}$  reaches 9.86% and 9.76% for Al-Cu3 and Al foam, respectively.

Figure 7 demonstrates the evolution of thermal entropy generation for different foams studied for  $2800 \le \text{Re} \le 3800$ at np concentration ( $\varphi = 0.1\%$ ). Results show that there is an inverse ratio between S<sub>h</sub> and Re, this is agreed in the previous paper [31]. As the Reynolds number increases, thermal entropy decreases. These results explain that the increasing percentage of copper in improved foam incited significant intermolecular disorder; in other words, more energy is dissipated from this system. This led to a higher entropy with Cu quantity. In addition, the rapid passage of nf through the porous medium accelerated the heat exchange by convection, causing a decrease in gradient temperature and a direct reduction in entropy. Large S<sub>h</sub> values were obtained for Al-Cu3. In Re = 2600, the generating thermal entropy is 713.15. More clearly, adding copper to the metallic foam gave more force to the system, so entropy initially rose before it gradually declined, meaning that the amount of irreversible energy was more significant. Since Al-Cu3 gave better results regarding heat exchanger, this foam was considered in the rest of the study.

#### Hydrothermal Analysis

To understand the effects of np concentration ( $\varphi$ %) of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O on the thermal characteristics of the proposed HS, Nu<sub>avg</sub> versus Re is indicated in Figure 8a for Da = 10<sup>-1</sup>, dn=10nm. Nu<sub>avg</sub> increased with the addition of np and flow rate, as agreed in previous studies [47, 50]. Nusselt number represents the ratio between convection and conduction. Acceleration of nf at different concentrations within metal foam leads to intense collisions with HS surfaces, racing the convection/conduction ratio. The addition of high-speed np reduces the thickness of the thermal boundary layer



**Figure 8.** Changes of a) Nu<sub>avg</sub>, b)  $\Delta P$  with Re at different nanoparticle concentrations  $\varphi$  % for Da=10<sup>-1</sup>, dn=10 nm.

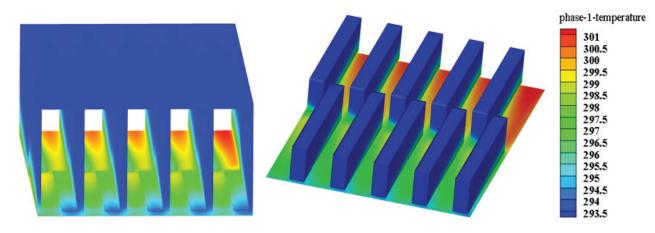


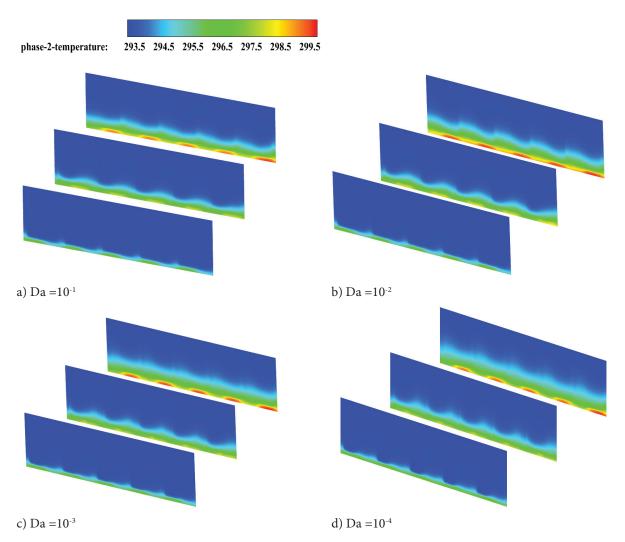
Figure 9. Effect of metal foam's position on temperature variation (K).

on the heat sink's bottom surface. All this improves heat exchange efficiency, which the Nusselts explain. When the volumetric concentration increased from 0.1% to 0.5%, for  $2600 \le \text{Re} \le 3800$ , Nu ranged from 56.71% to 57.91%. Figure 8b illustrates the evolution of pressure drops as a function of Re at different concentrations of np in water. High velocity and turbulence of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nf in HS channels lead to a gradual increase in pressure drop, which is evident when the percentage of nanoparticles is enhanced. For a Reynolds number raise from 2600 to 3800, the pressure drop is estimated at 55.34% and 56.82% for  $\varphi = 0.1\%$  and  $\varphi = 0.5\%$ , respectively. The contrasting position of the porous medium and aggravation of collisions between nf and channel surfaces, especially with the presence of Al-Cu3 foam, resulted in this high energy loss.

Researchers are again trying to find the ideal position for the porous foam inside heat sinks to be effective in cooling. In this work, a different foam position was assumed as two opposing pieces in one cavity of HS. Figure 9 shows the temperature contour of HS at Re=2800,  $\varphi$ =0.2%, Da=10<sup>-1</sup>, and dn=10nm. Temperature changes are at the lower basin surface and are more stable when porous media exist. The high conductivity of Al-Cu3 foam placed in opposite directions in HS channels enhanced surface exchange, and the high flow rate of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O nf improved heat transfer, allowing HS temperature to remain below 301 K. As shown, areas without porous foam have higher temperatures.

To clarify the effect of Al-Cu3 foam permeability on temperature distribution, Figure 10 plots temperature contours in different HS planes at Re =3200,  $\varphi$  = 0.3%, dn=20nm. Visually, isotherms are denser near the heated surface, which explains the heat transfer between HS and the CPU. In porous regions, the temperature is more steady, indicating that the porous medium was able to remove excess energy inside HS due to higher conductive heat transfer; this is more evident at a higher Darcy value. Moreover, In the z = 22.5 mm plane, which includes the opposite edges of the foam, the temperature lines near the bottom region are smooth and more ordered. The same behavior is obtained at different permeabilities while increasing the length of temperature contours. To understand the mechanism of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O flow in the studied domain, Figure 11 shows the velocity profiles in the z=22.5 mm plane (the middle of the domain) for different Da numbers at Re =3200,  $\varphi$  = 0.3 %, dn=20nm. The velocity disturbance grows with decreasing Darcy's number. In other words, low permeability prevents nf flow through pores, so it works as a block, forcing nf to rotate, which leads to vortices formation next to foam. In addition, at the top of HS, the liquid passage over the solid surface (metal foam) forms a boundary layer and leads to vortices forming At the highest Darcy value. The velocity lines are uniform and almost vortex-free due to the easy passage of nf; thus, heat transfer is enhanced. According to the results, it can be said that increasing pore permeability lowers the heated surface temperature and facilitates the passage of nf, resulting in an enhanced cooling process.

The Nusselt average number versus Reynolds number at different permeability of metal foam (Darcy number) is presented in Figure 12a. As can be seen, the heat transfer rate (Nu<sub>avg</sub>) rises along with increases in Re and Da numbers. Similar results were found in previous studies [52-55]. Improved heat transfer while increasing Da is due to the high permeability of Al-Cu3 foam and thus easy access of nf to pores spaces. This is most evident in the high Reynolds number. Regardless of nf velocity, the low permeability of porous foam makes it difficult for the liquid to pass due to the small pore size and frequent friction between the nanoparticles and narrow pores. According to the results found, with all Reynolds values, raising Darcy's from 10<sup>-4</sup> to 10<sup>-1</sup> improves Nu<sub>avg</sub> by up to 23 %. The maximum value of Nu<sub>avg</sub> is 95.816, obtained in Re=3800 and Da=10<sup>-1</sup>. To reinforce the above results, Figure 12b illustrates the variation of  $\Delta P$  as a function of Re at various Da. The increase in Da and Re values results in lower pressure drop values. Reduced pore permeability, or Da number, with high velocity, resulted in an undesired increase in friction due to the limited ability of nf to penetrate inside pores due to their small diameter, acting as an obstacle to nf flow, resulting



**Figure 10.** Heat sink temperature contours on the z-plane (5mm, 22.5mm, and 40mm) for various Da at Re =3200,  $\varphi = 0.3$ %, dn=20nm.

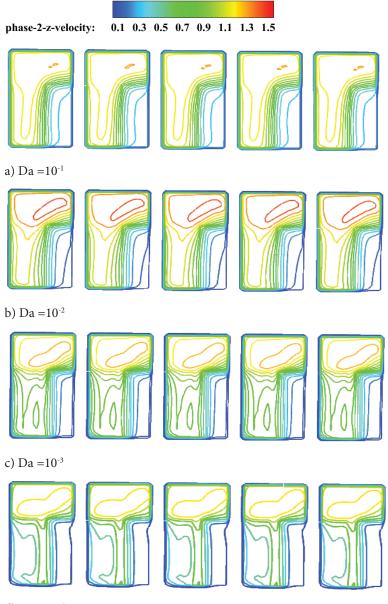
in increased pressure drop values. For example, at  $Da=10^{-4}$  and  $2800 \le Re \le 3800$ , the amplification in  $\Delta P$  is up to 55.15%. The increase in permeability facilitates the passage of nanofluid into pores and reduces friction, thus obtaining a lower pressure drop. The reduction in pressure drop is estimated at 87.53% for the same value of Re (Re=2600) when Da changes from  $10^{-4}$  to  $10^{-1}$ .

Figure 13 depicts the evolution of Nu<sub>avg</sub> with  $\varphi$ % at different Da for Re=3200, and dn =20nm. When np concentrations in base fluid rise, Nu<sub>avg</sub> improves with the higher permeability of Al-Cu3 foam. It can be said that adding Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> np to water enhanced the cooled liquid's thermal conductivity. On the other hand, the thickness of the thermal boundary layer decreases due to forced convection of nf; with high permeability, the heat exchange between solid and porous medium is enhanced, rapidly reducing the temperature of HS. The maximum value of Nu<sub>avg</sub> is 177.2 achieved for Da = 10<sup>-1</sup>,  $\varphi$ =0.5%. Improvement Nu<sub>avg</sub> reaches 34.14% when Da is increased from 10<sup>-4</sup> to 10<sup>-1</sup>.

Figure 14 represents the relationship between heat transfer rate (Nu<sub>avg</sub>) and diameter of nanoparticles (dn) at various Re at  $\varphi$ =0.1% and Da =10<sup>-1</sup>. Results show a slight decrease in Nu average values with increasing np diameter and flow acceleration. This can be explained by the large size of the nanoparticle's diameter, which occupies more space, so the number of nanoparticles in the water decreases, inhibiting the movement and interaction between water molecules and Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles. This is why cooling efficiency is low. When the Re number increases, similar results are achieved.

#### **Entropy Generation Analysis**

Investigating entropy is one way of evaluating the heat exchange performance of engineering systems, especially heat sinks. Evaluation of entropy generation (entropy due to heat transfer  $S_h$ , entropy due to viscous dissipation  $S_f$ and entropy due to the porous medium  $S_p$ ) of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O



d) Da =10<sup>-4</sup>

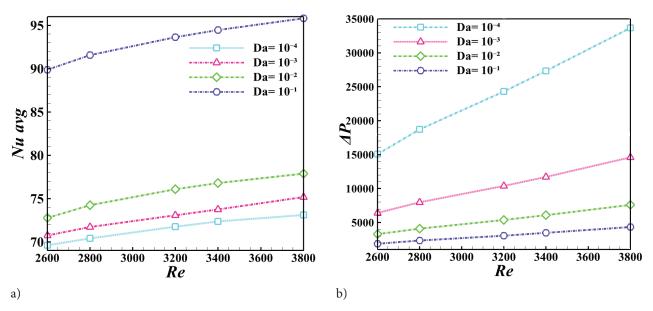
**Figure 11.** Velocity counters in the middle of HS at Re=3200,  $\varphi$ =0.3%, dn=20nm for different Da.

nf in Al-Cu3 foam with various parameters (Re, Da,  $\phi$ %) are investigated in this section.

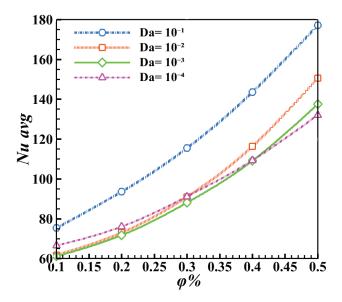
Figure 15 presents the a)  $S_{h}$ , b)  $S_{p}$ , c)  $S_{p}$  and d)  $S_{g}$ , in different Re and  $\varphi\%$  for Da=10<sup>-1</sup> and dn =20nm. In agreement with general trends [31], the thermal and global entropy generation shows the inverse dependence on Re caused by a lower temperature gradient directly affected by forced convection. Moreover, adding np leads to a significant decrease in entropy generation values due to the penetration of nf with high thermal conductivity into pores, stabilizing the surface temperature. Based on equation (22), temperature gradient strongly affects thermal entropy production; a more homogeneous medium means a lower entropy value. As Figure 15a shows, when Re =2600, the thermal entropy

generation decreased by 47.58%, but the loss is more remarkable at Re= 3800, evaluated by 81.18%.

Figure 15b and 15c demonstrate the variation of entropy production due to porous media and viscous entropy generation as a function of Re with various concentrations of np, respectively. The  $S_p$  and  $S_f$  are directly proportional to Re and  $\varphi$ %. The porous panels placed next to the walls of HS increase the velocity slope of nf. In contrast, the velocity gradient is significant, increasing the entropy generation value due to friction and porous foam. Moreover, the viscosity of nf rises with the increase of  $\varphi$ % in water, resulting in higher friction force. This is due to the internal force between the layers of liquid, which is at its maximum when in contact with a solid surface. By fixing Re in 3200,



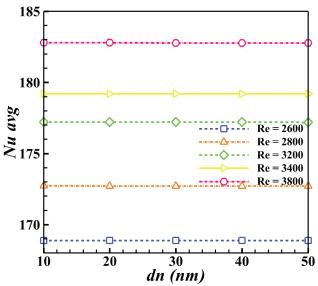
**Figure 12.** Variation of Nu<sub>avg</sub> and pressure drop in Re at different Da for  $\varphi = 0.2\%$ , dn=10nm.



**Figure 13.** Nu<sub>avg</sub> as a function of nanoparticles concentrations  $\varphi$ % for various Da number at Re=3200, dn =20nm.

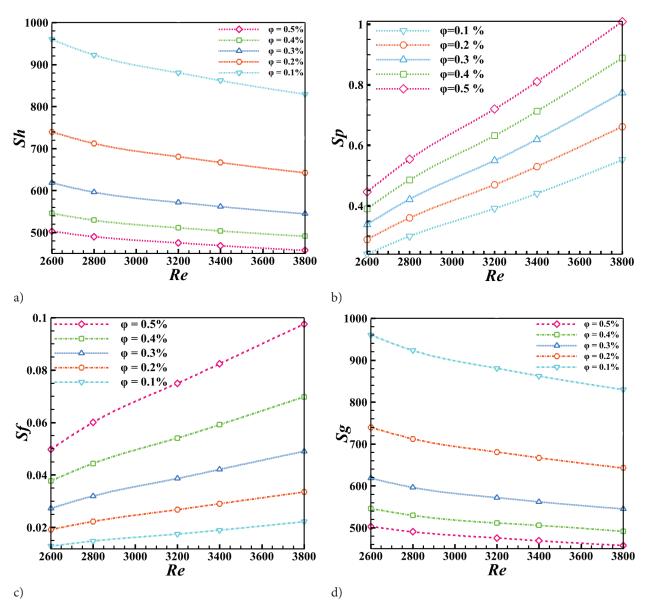
 $S_p$  grows by 45.8% and  $S_f$  by 77.3% when np concentration rises from 0.1% to 0.5%. Concerning the total entropy depicted in Figure 15d, according to its equation (25), it is the sum of thermal entropy generation, viscous, and due to porous medium. Considering each other's values, changes in total entropy generation are mainly affected by changes in thermal entropy generation during their dominance, and the rest is slightly influenced.

The influence of Darcy's number or, more precisely, the effect of Al-Cu3 foam permeability and np concentrations on the entropy generation is demonstrated at constant Re (Re=3200) and constant diameter of np (dn = 20nm) in



**Figure 14.** Changes of Nu<sub>avg</sub> with dn at different Re for  $\varphi = 0.5\%$ , Da=10<sup>-1</sup>.

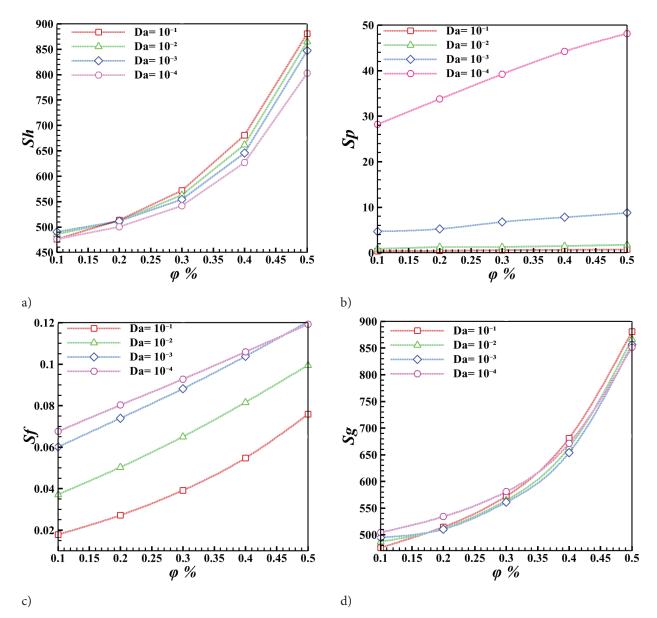
Figure 16. According to the results obtained,  $S_h$  grows rapidly with Da values and np concentration. On the other side, Sf gives the highest values at the smallest Darcy because the friction reaches the maximum due to the obstruction of nf flow in the narrow pores. As the pores expand due to the increase in Da, the friction reduces, and the transit of liquid becomes easy, resulting in a lower temperature gradient in the porous part, reducing the thermal entropy and increasing the heat exchager process through forced convection. Furthermore, for S<sub>p</sub>, it was shown that their value increases significantly at Da=10<sup>-4</sup>, with the highest value being 48.17, estimated at  $\varphi$ =0.5%, while not exceeding 0.72



**Figure 15.** Effects of Re on entropy generation with different  $\varphi$ % at Da=10<sup>-1</sup>,dn =20nm.

when Darcy is 10<sup>-1</sup>. As seen in Figure 16b, entropy values generated by porous media converge with high permeability. Since thermal entropy increases with rising  $\varphi$ % and Da, the total entropy displays the same behavior due to its dominance over the total. In Figure 16d, for a value of Da=10<sup>-4</sup>, at low concentrations of np, a disparity in entropy values is present, where the value of total entropy increases due to the increase of S<sub>p</sub> values, which has a significant impact on the randomness of the system. With higher concentrations and high permeability, this effect gradually disappears. Generally, it can be argued that the factor strongly influencing entropy production is temperature gradient and permeability of pores. In other words, the low temperature of exchange surfaces leads to a weak thermal entropy, which means that the medium is less disordered, which is explained by the total entropy.

The outcomes of thermal entropy and entropy due to the porous media in metal foam HS versus flow acceleration and Da are indicated in Figure 17. In all Darcy values, the thermal entropy reduces with increased nf flux. In contrast, the resulting entropy of the porous medium rises with increased Re values. As discussed, enhancing  $Fe_3O_4$ -H<sub>2</sub>O nf velocity within reinforced metal foam accelerates heat exchange, decreasing the temperature gradient and lowering thermal entropy values. Thermal entropy values are almost identical when Darcy goes from  $Da=10^{-2}$  to  $Da=10^{-1}$ . From these results, it can be said that pore permeability has a slight effect compared to high nf velocity. As shown in Figure 17b, Sp raises with Re. The increase is perceptible at lower Da values due to enhanced velocity, especially on the z-axis parallel to nf track.



**Figure 16.** Changes of a)  $S_h$ , b)  $S_p$ , c)  $S_p$  and d)  $S_g$  with  $\varphi$ % at different Da for Re= 3200, dn =20nm.

The dependency of friction factor on flow velocity for different np concentrations is displayed in Figure 18. According to equation (21), the friction factor is influenced by various parameters such as pressure drop, flow velocity, channel size, and nf properties.  $Fe_3O_4$  np in water induces slight friction between HS walls' basic and adjacent fluid layers. Hence, enhancing the concentrations of nanoparticles with higher Reynolds numbers increases the friction coefficient. Similar observation were reported by Chan et al.[56] in their investigation. As previously explained in Figure 8, pressure drop grows with increased coolant velocity and np concentrations due to the high viscosity of  $Fe_3O_4$ -H<sub>2</sub>O nf, which has a direct influence on the growth of the friction factor. At a constant value of Re, the friction factor rises to 49.6% when the concentration is changed from 0.1% to 0.5%.

Figure 19 exposes the HS performance evaluation criteria changes at different Darcy and Reynolds numbers for  $\varphi$ =0.2%, dn=20 nm. Results display enhancement in PEC as pore permeability and flow velocity are raised. Noticeably, there is an important variation in HS performance when Darcy reaches the maximum, while the PEC values are almost constant when Da moves from 10<sup>-4</sup> to 10<sup>-2</sup>. Although the pressure drop of nf within pores increases (shown in Figure 12b), heat transfer is more dominant, improving the performance evaluation criteria. The enhancement is up to 56%.

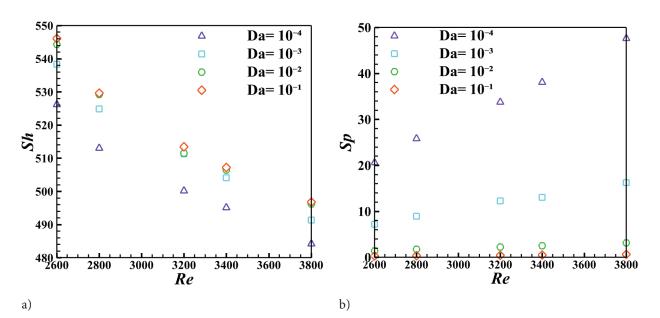
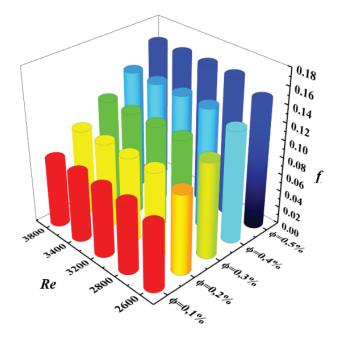


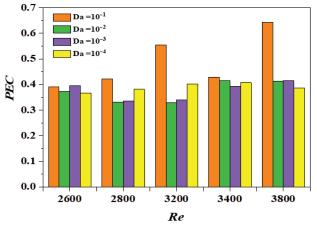
Figure 17. Variations of S<sub>h</sub>, b) S<sub>p</sub> as a function of Re at different Da numbers.



**Figure 18.** Friction factor as a function of Re at various concentrations of nanoparticles.

# CONCLUSION

To obtain an effective metal foam for cooling the Core i9 processor, this paper compared several metal foams in terms of aluminum and copper mixture ratios. The optimal foam was selected and installed in a new opposite shape inside the proposed heat sink. The finite volume method (FVM) simulated the computational domain under turbulent and forced convection conditions. To increase the study's accuracy, a two-phase Eulerian approach was used



**Figure 19.** Performance evaluation criteria of HS with Da and Re numbers.

to predict the behavior of  $Fe_3O_4$  nf in foam. The study investigated the influence of flow velocity, np diameter and concentration, and pore permeability on heat transfer and entropy generation. The results were presented as Nu average, pressure drop, temperature and velocity contours, and entropy generation. The main results obtained can be summarized as follows:

- 1 Al-Cu3 foam, which contains 60% aluminum and 40% copper, improves heat transfer by up to 5.79% with a constant porosity ( $\epsilon = 0.8$ ).
- 2 The addition of  $Fe_3O_4$  nanoparticles to the base fluid at different concentrations leads to an enhancement of  $Nu_{avg}$  from 56.71% to 57.91, also accompanied by an increase in pressure drop from 55.34% to 56.82% when  $\varphi$  rises from 0.1 to 0.5, respectively.

- 3 Increasing nf flow rate while improving pore permeability leads to a 23% enhancement in  $Nu_{avg}$  at  $\varphi$ =0.2%, dn=10nm.
- 4 The placement of metal foam proposed in this study can reduce the thermal entropy production by 47.58% and 81.18% for Re values of 2600 and 3800, respectively.
- 5 Performance evaluation criteria PEC improves to 56% when the pore permeability and flow velocity are raised.
- 6 Using Al-Cu3 foam can effectively maintain the temperature of electronic components within the safe limit. Finally, field experiments could be carried out to deter-

mine how the position of porous media and its composition affect cooling efficiency in electronic components. Other nanofluids or hybrid nanofluids can be tested as coolants.

# NOMENCLATURE

| А                 | Area (m <sup>2</sup> )                                    |
|-------------------|---|
| Al                | Aluminum foam   |
|                   | Specific heat ( J/kg.K)                                   |
| Cp<br>Cu          | Copper foam   |
| Da                |   |
|                   | Darcy number  |
| dn<br>f           | Nanoparticles diameter (nm)                               |
| 1                 | Friction factor   |
| H                 | Height (mm)   |
| h                 | Convective heat transfer coefficient (W/m <sup>2</sup> K) |
| h                 | Height of Al-Cu3 foam (mm)                                |
| HS                | Heat sink   |
| Κ                 | Permeability (m <sup>2</sup> )                            |
| k                 | Heat conductivity (W/m.K)                                 |
| L                 | Length (mm)   |
| 1                 | Length of Al-Cu3 foam (mm)                                |
| MCHS              | Micro Channel Heat Sink                                   |
| MHD               | Magneto-hydrodynamic                                      |
| Nu                | Nusselt number  |
| Nu <sub>avg</sub> | Average Nusselt number                                    |
| Р                 | Pressure (Pa)   |
| $\Delta P$        | Pressure drop (Pa)  |
| PCM               | Phase change material                                     |
| PEC               | Performance evaluation criteria                           |
| q″                | Heat flux $(W/m^2)$                                       |
| S <sub>h</sub>    | Thermal entropy generation                                |
| T                 | Temperature (K)   |
| t                 | Length of space between two foams (mm)                    |
| W                 | Width (mm)  |
| W                 | Width of Al-Cu3 foam (mm)                                 |
|                   |   |

# **Greek Symbols**

μ Viscosity (kg/m.s)

- $\rho$  Density (kg/m<sup>3</sup>)
- φ Volume fraction of nanoparticles (%)
- ε Porosity

# Subscripts

| avg | Average |
|-----|---------|
| in  | Inlet   |

| 1   | Liquid phase |
|-----|--------------|
| nf  | Nanofluid    |
| np  | Nanoparticle |
| р   | Solid phase  |
| out | Outlet       |

# **AUTHORSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS**

Authors equally contributed to this work.

# DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The authors confirm that the data that supports the findings of this study are available within the article. Raw data that support the finding of this study are available from the corresponding author, upon reasonable request.

# CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

# ETHICS

There are no ethical issues with the publication of this manuscript.

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